

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the heading “FIELD OF THE INVENTION,” with --BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION-- in line 3 on page 1 of the specification.

Please insert the heading -- I. Field of the Invention --, in line 4 on page 1 of the specification.

Please replace the heading “PRIOR ART,” with --II. Description of the Related Art-- in line 7 on page 1 of the specification.

Please delete paragraph [0003] on page 1 of the specification.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 12 and ending at line 15, as follows:

The labeling apparatus of ~~Patent Document 1;~~ Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication 2001-130504 (JP ‘504) is provided with a storage shelf, a tablet supply section, a tablet vessel supply section, a tablet filling section and a label attaching section.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 16 and ending at line 22, as follows:

The label attaching section is a section that a label on which a tablet name and so on is printed is attached on a vial. The label to be attached on the vial in the tablet attaching section after printed by a print head is peeled from a sheet by a guide tip provided at an end portion of the tablet attaching section as the sheet is turned. Then, only the peeled label advances toward the vial.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 1 and ending at line 7, as follows:

In the label attaching section, in the vicinity of the position where the peeled label advances, a rotation roller which is rotated by a motor is ~~provide~~provided so that the rotation

force is transmitted to the vial. A support member of the vial is positioned near the rotation roller. A pair of push rollers is disposed on the support member so as to form an isosceles triangle together with the rotation roller.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 8 and ending at line 12, as follows:

In the label attaching section constructed as described above, the advancing label comes into contact with the outer surface of the vial to adhere to the vial. The rotation of the vial due to the rotation roller allows all ~~surface~~ the surfaces of the label to be attached on the vial.

Please replace the heading “DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION,” with --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION-- in line 7 on page 1 of the specification.

Please cancel the heading “PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED BY THE INVENTION,” in line 15 on page 2 of the specification.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 16 and ending at line 21, as follows:

However, the adhesion of the label is not stable just after being attached on the vial. So, the tip end of the label is likely to be peeled from the vial due to stiffness itself. If the vial is rotated in a state that the tip end of the label is peeled and free, there is a possibility that the label adheres to the push rollers.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 22 and ending on page 3 at line 2, as follows:

~~So~~ Therefore, it is an object of the present invention to provide a labeling apparatus in which the label can be ~~surely~~ securely attached on the outer surface of the vial.

Please cancel the heading “MEANS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS,” in line 4 on page 3 of the specification.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 5 and ending at line 20, as follows:

In order to solve the above problems, a labeling apparatus according to the present invention, comprises:

at least three support rollers which come into contact with the outer surface of the vial to rotate;

an arm for rotatably supporting the support rollers;

rotation means or unit for rotating the vial held by the support rollers in a predetermined direction;

label supply means for supplying labels to be attached on the outer surface of the vial; and

an endless member which rotates according to the rotation of the vial between a first support roller and a second support roller, the first support roller being one with which the label fed from the label supply means comes into contact ~~firstly~~ first, the second support roller being one with which the tip end of the label that is in ~~a~~ an attaching process in accordance with the rotation of the vial comes into contact secondary.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 21 and ending on page 4 at line 1, as follows:

In the labeling apparatus, each of the support rollers is preferably ~~one~~ divided into an upper part and a lower part within a range of the height of the vial.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 2 and ending at line 19, as follows:

Here, the element of “at least three support rollers which come into contact with the outer surface of the vial to rotate” includes all constructions that more than three support rollers are disposed so as to form a locus of a circle such as a construction that three support rollers are disposed at regular intervals to form an equilateral triangle, a construction that three support

rollers are disposed to form an irregular triangle such as isosceles triangle, a construction that four support rollers are disposed at regular intervals to form a quadrate, and a construction that four support rollers are disposed at irregular intervals to form a quadrangle.

The element of “an endless member which rotates according to the rotation of the vial” means one having a loop shape. The width and thickness are not limited.

The support roller “divided into an upper part and a lower part within a range of the height of the vial” means one in which rollers with short total length are vertically disposed on the same axis.

Please cancel the heading “EFFECT OF THE INVENTION,” in line 21 on page 4 of the specification.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 22 and ending on page 4 at line 11, as follows:

In the labeling apparatus according to the present invention, the endless member rotates according to the rotation of the vial between the first support roller with which the label comes into contact ~~firstly~~ first and the second support roller with which the label with which the label comes into contact ~~secondarily~~ second, preventing the tip end of the label from being peeled from the vial due to stiffness. As a result, the label is continuously pressed on the vial as the label is guided to the support rollers, allowing all surface of the label to be ~~surely~~ securely attached on the outer surface of the vial. Thus, it is possible to ~~surely~~ prevent ~~the~~ occurrence of a ~~trouble problem~~ caused ~~due to that~~ by the label with the tip end peeled and free ~~adheres~~ adhering to the push rollers.

Please cancel the heading “EXPLANATION OF REFERENCED NUMERALS,” in line 18 on page 6 of the specification.

Please delete paragraph [0016] on pages 6 and 7 of the specification.

Please replace the heading “BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION,” with –DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION– in line 18 on page 7 of the specification.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 4 and ending on page 9 at line 10, as follows:

Inside the tablet storing and dispensing apparatus 1, as shown in FIGS. 2, 3, 4, and 5, there are provided: a vial supply part 100, a labeling part 200 served as label supply means or unit, a tablet supply part 300, a photographing part 400, a cap supply part 500, a capping part 600, and a storage part 700. The vial supply part 100 is provided on the right side of the main body 10 as viewed from the front, as shown in FIG. 2, and stores a large number of vials 3 by size and supplies, one by one, vials 3 of a size suitable for filling tablets in accordance with prescription data. The labeling part 200 is provided at the lower center of the main body 10 as viewed from the front, and puts a label with printed prescription information on a vial 3 supplied from the vial supply part 100. The tablet supply part 300 is provided on the left side of the main body 10, and stores a large number of tablets (non-pyrazolone) by type and supplies tablets in accordance with prescription data. The photographing part 400 is provided, as shown in FIG. 4, on the center back side of the main body 10, and photographs a vial 3 from ~~the~~ above for audit of tablets filled into the vial 3. The cap supply part 500 is provided, as shown in FIG. 3, on the right side of the main body 10 and behind the vial supply part 100, and stores caps 2 for plugging the vials 3, and supplies the caps one by one. The capping part 600 is provided on the center back side of the main body 10, and plugs a vial 3, which is filled with tablets, with a cap 2 supplied from the cap supply part 500. The storage part 700, as shown in FIG. 5, stores vials 3 filled with tablets and plugged with a cap 2 so that they can be taken out by an operator through take-out ports 30a, 30b, and 30c.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 11 and ending on page 11 at line 9, as follows:

The tablet storing and dispensing apparatus 1 is further provided, as shown in FIG. 2, with a first transfer robot 150, a second transfer robot 250, a third transfer robot 350, and a fourth transfer robot 450. The first transfer robot 150 is provided below the vial supply part 100, and

can hold a vial 3 supplied from the vial supply part 100, transfer it leftward from the vial supply part 100 to the labeling part 200 in the horizontal direction of the main body, and transfer it upward from the labeling part 200 to the second transfer robot 250 or the third transfer robot 350. The second transfer robot 250 is provided inside the tablet supply part 300, and can hold a vial 3 delivered from the first transfer robot 150, transfer it to supply ports of the tablet supply part 300, and transfer it from the supply ports to the third transfer robot 350. The third transfer robot 350 is provided above the first transfer robot 150 in the main body 10, and can deliver, between the capping part 600 and the fourth transfer robot 450, a vial 3 delivered from the first transfer robot 150 or the second transfer robot 250. The ~~a~~fourth transfer robot 450 is provided above the third transfer robot 350, and can transfer a vial 3 delivered from the third transfer robot 350 upward to the storage part[[.]] 700.